

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05843 151549Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05
SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
OMB-01 /099 W
-----069893 160147Z /63

R 151451Z JUL 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9235
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, SA, GATT
SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN IMPORT SURCHARGE AND NOTHER NOTIFICATION
QUESTIONS

REF: GENEVA 4425

1. SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION REP HAS RESPONDED TO MISSION
REQUEST IN REFTEL THAT SAG NOTIFY ITS RECENT 15 PERCENT IMPORT
SURCHARGE. HE REPORTED THAT SAG WAS AND STILL IS OF
OPINION THAT IT NOT NECESSARY TO NOTIFY MEASURE AS GATT
COUNCIL CAN DO NO MORE THAN TAKE NOTE OF THE NOTIFICATION
GIVEN THAT INCREASES IN UNBOUND DUTIES DO NOT VIOLATE
ANY GATT OBLIGATIONS. HE ADDED THAT IF U.S. HAS ANY
PROBLEMS WE SHOULD RAISE THEM ON A BILATERAL BASIS.

2. WE REPLIED THAT AFTER CONSULTATION WITH WASHINGTON
IT POSSIBLE THAT WE WILL RAISE MATTER IN GATT COUNCIL,
BUT WE PROMISED TO LET SAG MISSION KNOW BEFOREHAND. SAG
REP ASKED OUT OF CURISOITY IF SAG HAD NOTIFIED MEASURES,
WOULD WE HAVE TRIED TO HAVE A BOP COMMITTEE REVIEW.
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WE NOTED THAT WE DID NOT DO ANYTHING IN THE CASE OF
SPAIN AND WE DOUBTED THAT U.S. WOULD WANT TO PURSUE THE
MATTER FURTHER, BUT WE PROMISED TO CONFIRM THIS WITH
WASHINGTON.

3. WE RECOMMEND THAT WE AND EMBASSY PRETORIA IN LOW KEY
MANNER INFORM SAG THAT OUR INTEREST IN MATTER IS TO SEE

THE MEASURES NOTIFIED, THAT IT IS PART OF AN OVERALL EFFORT TO GET MORE COUNTRIES TO NOTIFY THEIR MEASURES AND THAT AS MEASURE IS ON UNBOUND ITEMS WE WOULD NOT CARRY THE MATTER ANY FURTHER. WE SHOULD REITERATE THAT WHEN SPAIN RECENTLY IMPOSED SURCHARGE ON UNBOUND ITEMS IT NOTIFIED THEM.

4. WE DO NOT RPT NOT RECOMMEND THAT WE RAISE MATTER IN COUNCIL BECAUSE SOUTH AFRICA HAS NO CLEAR GATT OBLIGATIONS TO NOTIFY. WE HAD CONSIDERED RECOMMENDING RAISING QUESTION OF NOTIFICATIONS IN A GENERAL WAY AND POINTING TO FAILURE OF SOUTH AFRICA, PORTUGAL AND BRAZIL TO NOTIFY RECENT MEASURES. HOWEVER, PORTUGAL'S NOTIFICATION DELAYED BECAUSE PARLIAMENT HAS NOT YET APPROVED CHANGES IN LIST OF PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO SURCHARGE, AND BRAZILIAN MISSION IS PURSUING QUESTION OF NOTIFICATION WITH CACEX (SEPTTEL). FURTHERMORE, WE ALREADY INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF CONTENTIOUS ISSUES AT FORTHCOMING GATT COUNCIL THAT HAVE HIGHER PRIORITY INTEREST. VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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